



The Joy of Sox® “Sock Drive” Program Check List for Conducting a Sock Drive

**“...socks can be more important than food.”
Kiwi, a homeless person**

Do you have a sock drawer at home? The homeless don't! So wouldn't holding a sock drive be a great way to help provide this basic need for the homeless?

This is where you can help. By conducting a sock drive with your friends, family, neighbors, school, business, civic or church group, this can be an effective (and fun!) grass roots means of raising homelessness awareness and fulfilling a practical and unmet need of homeless men, women and children.

As part of a growing number of The Joy of Sox “Sock Angels” in Philadelphia and across the country YOU can make a big impact on the daily lives of the homeless by conducting a sock drive.

Here's a simple check list of what you or your organization could do:

But first, are you near Philadelphia or not near Philadelphia?

Near Philadelphia? At the end of your sock drive let us know and perhaps you can drop them off, or we may be able to pick up your donation. Plus, we'd love to meet you in person to thank you and give you your *Special Certificate of Appreciation!*

- If dropping them off our address is:
The Joy of Sox
580 Lindsey Dr., Ste 150
Radnor, PA 19087-2339 (use Wayne, PA on your GPS)



All sock drive sponsors receive a “Special Certificate of Appreciation.”

Not near Philadelphia?

If you want your donation to go to a local shelter, please use these links to find shelters near you: ShelterListings.org, or HomelessShelterDirectory.org. When you click on the links you will leave our website and be taken to theirs. We feel that the directories are legitimate, but since we do not maintain them we cannot vouch for their accuracy.

If you have any questions, please send us an [email](mailto:) or give us a call at 610-688-3318 (east coast time zone) and we will walk you through the process.

After the socks are donated please collect a receipt, if possible, from the shelter and mail/email it to the address above, so we can know how many socks were

collected and distributed. If they do not have a receipt simply email us the shelter information, date of donation and number of socks.

If you want to ship them to us our address is:

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OK, now here's the start of the real checklist:

Type of Event: Decide on the type of the event, for example:

School, church or work sock drive. If holding the drive in a school, you could have the classes stage poster contests, featuring socks, to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless

Sock drive held in conjunction with a social gathering, such as a wine and cheese with a bag of sox, or a monetary donation to The Joy of Sox as the admission

"Sock Hop"

Charity fun walk/run in which The Joy of Sox will be the beneficiary

Be creative!

Dates for the Event: Determine the starting and end dates for your event.

Type of Socks Needed: Check with The Joy of Sox on the type of socks needed. Depending on factors such as time of year and your location one type of sock may be more needed than another. For example, in your location the shelters may just need men's socks, so collecting socks for children or women at that location would be ineffective. It's best to check **before** beginning your drive so we get the most needed socks to those in most in need. You can simply call 610-688-3318 or send us an [email](#).

New Socks Only: Only collect NEW socks. Never used. The homeless rarely get anything new, so new socks area a special treat. Also, we do not have laundry facilities to wash and sanitize donations of used socks.

Black or Dark-Colored Socks: The *ideal* socks are men's or women's **BLACK** or dark colored cotton crew socks (they don't show the dirt like white socks) with reinforced toe and heel. These can be purchased in multi-packs at Costco, Target, K-Mart, etc.

However ... if the sock drive is being conducted in a grade school and **if** socks for children are needed, encourage children to collect "age appropriate" socks. For example, a first grader would collect socks for someone of first grade age. It's a good reminder that there are homeless children of all ages who need socks.

Share The Joy of Sox® story: Share The Joy of Sox® story and mission with your group. The story on how we got started is [here](#). Handouts are available [here](#). Posters and graphics are available [here](#).

Spread the Word: Inform everybody of your sock drive with The Joy of Sox by email, Twitter, Facebook, etc.

Like us on Facebook: Like us on [Facebook](#) and please ask your friends to like us too! Our goal is to get 5,000 likes!

Hold Your Sock Drive: Hold your sock drive and collect a lots of new socks for the homeless!



At the End of the Sock Drive:

Take Pictures: Take a few pictures of the event. Pictures of the posters, the socks, the people!

Count and Separate: When all the socks have been collected please count them and separate them into plastic bags by men's, women's, and children's sizes. Then simply put a label on the outside indicating what's inside, such as "128 pairs of men's new socks."

Press Release: Distribute a Press Release about the success of your sock drive!

Distribute the Socks: After all this is what we're all about!

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Ship Them to The Joy of Sox: If you simply want to ship them to us our address is:

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Send us an Email About Your Success: Send us an [email](#) with:

- The name and contact information of the organization that held the event
- The name(s) of the event organizers
- Pictures of the event (people, posters, socks, etc.) for our social media and website
- The number total of socks collected, and the number of men's, women's and children's socks
- The information on the shelter(s) where the socks were delivered
- And don't forget to request your *Certificate of Appreciation* for holding a sock drive event.
- Set a date to do this again next year!

Have fun! And realize that you are helping make lots of homeless toes healthy & happy toes!!



Villanova University Intern Colleen and some of the many donated socks. After we get sock donations we pack the them in boxes for distribution to local shelters, or shipment to shelters in other locations.

Interested in More Ways to Help?

To learn more about The Joy of Sox, please check out our website, blog and social media.

Website – www.TheJoyOfSox.org

Blog – www.TheJoyOfSox.com/blog

Facebook – www.Facebook.com/TheJoyOfSoxOrg



Twitter – www.Twitter.com/TheJoyOfSoxOrg



If you're on Facebook, please **LIKE** us at www.Facebook.com/TheJoyOfSoxOrg and ask your friends to like us too!

Questions? Suggestions? If you have any questions or suggestions about anything, including:

- Volunteering
- Becoming a Sock Angel
- Being on the Board
- Making a financial contribution, or
- Anything else

Please send an email [here](#), or give us a call at 610-688-3318.

Support To help support the operation of our mission please visit [here](#).

Our Philadelphia United Way Donor Choice Number is 49107

Notes:

Sock Angels. We call the various volunteers that help The Joy of Sox “Sock Angels.” Most people, except the homeless, have sock drawers at home. So we figured if there is a group helping us out in say Santa Cruz, CA then they are the Santa Cruz Sock Angels!

The Joy of Sox logo and colors. You may freely use The Joy of Sox® logo, with the registered trademark symbol, but you must use it in its entirety, including the words “new socks for the homeless.” No changes are allowed to the logo. Our official colors are purple and gold. The color numbers for the purple are 48496F or 72 41 111. The color numbers for the gold are DA9127 or 218 145 39. Use these colors if you are trying to duplicate the official purple and gold of The Joy of Sox.

Thanks so much for your interest in our mission of giving joy to the homeless by giving them new socks!

Revised 1-4-16

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